CONTENTS:

1. Scrutiny Committee Chairs Foreword ............................................................. 1

2. Comments from the Chief Executive .............................................................. 2

3. Scrutiny Committee Work and Achievements ................................................ 4

4. Scrutiny Outcomes and Impact on Service Delivery ...................................... 10

5. Scrutiny Developments During the Year ........................................................ 14

6. Looking Forward to 20012/13 ...................................................................... 18

7. Scrutiny Committee Memberships 2011 and 2012 ......................................... 20
Welcome to our scrutiny annual report, those of you familiar with the annual report will be aware that we underwent an independent review of our structures and following that we have now introduced a new structure for scrutiny at Chesterfield Borough Council. The new structure allows for more pro active scrutiny within the council and to aid this we have also introduced link officers.

The link officers are our direct contact within the departments and we would like to thank those who have taken on this role, we have held our first link officer meeting giving us all a good opportunity to discuss the new structure and how we see this and the link officer role working within the council.

We are now also holding pre agenda meetings for all scrutiny committee’s and the dates for these have been set and have been made available for officers and Executive members to attend and bring items forward to the committee’s. We are holding weekly scrutiny business meetings in a bid to keep things moving along the system and we have been using these to bring forward some new ideas that will be reported on in the next annual report.

As you will see from the report we have yet again covered a wide variety of issues within scrutiny over the last year and we continue to work with other councils and attend regional network meetings. We are also facing several changes regarding scrutiny of Health and Police and these changes are driven from Government, it is frustrating at times because things can change daily or feel like they are dragging on forever waiting for clarification from Government.

We will continue to influence and challenge decisions and policy developments both with internal and external providers to ensure they have performance and good financial management at the forefront of any decision, whilst still providing an excellent service.

We would like to thank all the officers and executive members for the way they have worked with us and also the members of scrutiny who have attended meetings and given useful and valid comments and recommendations.

Scrutiny Chairs

Councillor Jean Innes

Councillor Vicki Lang
2 Comments from the Chief Executive

It is my pleasure again to comment on the Annual Scrutiny Report, this time for the financial year 2011/12. As I have read through the report, the words that have come to mind have included impactful, relevant, value-adding, innovative, challenging, resourceful, and, in simple terms, just “great stuff”. There can be few, if any, District/Borough Council annual scrutiny reports that better demonstrate the value of a properly constituted and resourced scrutiny function.

The outputs and outcomes achieved are to be applauded and, although very difficult to measure, should be recognised as making a real difference to the quality of people’s lives in Chesterfield.

I think it only right to mention how impressed I have been with the skill and resolve shown by the joint scrutiny Chairs, Councillors Lang and Innes, ably supported by our Head of Governance, Sara Goodwin, and Scrutiny Officer, Anita Cunningham, in managing what, in my opinion, has been a very effective and smooth transition from the old to the new scrutiny arrangements. Whilst it is still early days, I firmly believe that the Council took the right decision to redefine and reshape its scrutiny arrangements at this time.

The evidence is plain for all to see in this Annual Report that our scrutiny members, through their interest and commitment, are gradually infiltrating all aspects of Council policy formulation and decision making, and also developing a burgeoning reputation for holding to account all that come before it, whether they be Executive members, officers or representatives of partner organisations. And, all power to the Scrutiny Forum and to the two Scrutiny committees for doing just this.

A much improved feature of this Annual Scrutiny Report is the increased attention paid to what has been achieved by the sound delivery of the Council’s overview and scrutiny functions in the financial year 2011/12. Past annual reports have advised the reader of what the scrutiny members have been looking at, i.e. the inputs to process, as opposed to this latest report that more clearly articulates the outputs and outcomes that have been achieved. Through so doing, it is far easier for all of us to recognise the value of the work with which our scrutiny members have been engaged. There is also the often forgotten benefit of the skills, knowledge and experience that 15 non-executive members will have gained through their participation in the Council’s scrutiny arrangements. This is not to be underestimated, particularly when you look at the breadth of the subject matter covered within this report.

It is also of no surprise to me that other Councils are now looking to learn from our good work at Chesterfield. I have been encouraged to see our scrutiny officer’s name feature on the literature for various national and regional conferences, seminars and workshops. We are clearly viewed as a “best practice” Council, which clearly brings with it various plaudits but also places us on a platform from which we can easily be knocked off unless we maintain our focus and attention on, and sustain the quality of, our scrutiny arrangements.

Judging from what has already been progressed this financial year and also looking ahead at what is in plan, I don’t sense that we have anything to worry about.

My thanks and congratulations therefore to all that have been involved with the Council’s scrutiny arrangements for the financial year 2011/12, and also in the production of this excellent report. I also wish our scrutiny members well with the implementation of the present year’s scrutiny work programme. The
programme looks challenging but also very exciting, and I look forward again to reading of the outputs and outcomes achieved twelve months from now.

Chief Executive
3 The Scrutiny Committee Work and Achievements

Detailed below is the work undertaken by the Council’s Scrutiny Committees during the municipal year 2011/12. It needs to be explained that during 2011 the Council’s scrutiny function and its operation underwent an independent review (see Section 5 for further information).

The review, which concluded December 2011 led to the introduction of a new structure of scrutiny committees in 2012. Hence this section details the work of the Scrutiny Board and the Efficiency and Best Value Scrutiny Panel under the former structure in 2011, and then the Overview and Performance Scrutiny Forum, the Enterprise and Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee and the Community, Customer and Organisational Scrutiny Committee, forming the new structure in 2012.

The Council’s Overview and Scrutiny Committees may undertake scrutiny work as a committee, or appoint Scrutiny Review Panels to undertake specific task and finish projects before reporting back to an Overview and Scrutiny Committee. The work undertaken during 2011/12 with supporting information, is detailed below.

Forward Plan and Pre-Decision Scrutiny

A standing item on each Scrutiny Committee agenda is the Council’s Forward Plan. The Forward Plan is a public document which contains details of the key decisions the Cabinet and Executive Councillors will make over a four month period, and is updated each month. Receiving and considering the Forward Plan provides the Scrutiny Board with the opportunity to undertake ‘pre-decision scrutiny’, scrutiny of a matter before a formal decision is made by Cabinet and to then make recommendations to influence the decision. The Forward Plan must also contain reference to key decisions to be made which are exempt from public access and are to be made in private.

During May to December 2011, the Scrutiny Board invited all Executive Members to attend a Board meeting and present their future aspirations as newly appointed Executive Members under the Council’s new administration, and their forthcoming Key Decisions as detailed in the Forward Plan. The following Executive Members / Assistant Executive Members attended and gave their presentations:

Leader of the Council/Executive Member for Regeneration, Councillor Burrows

Deputy Leader and Executive Member for Planning, Councillor Gilby

Executive Member for Governance & Organisational Development, Councillor King

Executive Member for Customers and Communities, Councillor Blank

Assistant Executive Member for Environment, Councillor Allen

Executive Member for Leisure, Culture and Tourism, Councillor Stringer

Executive Member for Housing, Councillor McManus

Throughout 2011/12 Scrutiny Committees also undertook pre-decision scrutiny, influencing decisions on the following matters:

- Cumulative Impact Policy
- Anti Social Behaviour Policy
- Equality, Diversity and Social Inclusion Policy
- Equalities, Diversity and Social Inclusion Strategy
- Workforce Strategy
- HRA Business Plan and Self Financing
- Residents Led Self Regulation (Tenants Scrutiny)
- Business Transformation Strategy

Budget and Performance Scrutiny

The Scrutiny Committees undertake budget and performance scrutiny receiving and scrutinising comprehensive budget and performance Cabinet reports on a quarterly or six monthly basis. Throughout the year, the Council Leader, Executive Members and Chief Officers are challenged on performance of their service areas and the budgets they are responsible for and on how they contribute to priorities for the Chesterfield community.

- Scrutinised performance progress in relation to the Corporate Services Public / Private Partnership contract for the Council’s Corporate Services functions (relating to the Board’s work as detailed in Section 4 of this report).

- Scrutinised performance progress against agreed actions in implementing the Council’s adopted Street Scene Improvement Plan.

Scrutiny Committee Power of ‘Call-in’

Scrutiny legislation allows for an Overview and Scrutiny Committee (OSC) to investigate, make reports and recommendations on Cabinet decisions that have been agreed but not yet put into action. Legislation allows for action on these decisions to be suspended pending such a Scrutiny inquiry. This process is referred to as scrutiny ‘Call-in’.

If a Call-in request is accepted by the Scrutiny Committee, it can require the Cabinet to reconsider its decision on the basis of the evidence it has gathered and reasons given. If a Call-in request is not accepted by the Scrutiny Committee, the Cabinet may continue to action the decision as originally made.

During 2011 the Scrutiny Board received and considered the following Call-in:

**Call-In Regarding the Proposed Designation of Ashgate Road to Saltergate Conservation Area**

In July 2011 the Council’s Cabinet considered a report regarding the designation of and extension of Chesterfield Town Centre Conservation Area to include the Saltergate and Ashgate Road corridor. The proposals were agreed subject to community consultation.

A call-in request was made and the Cabinet in particular during this period Scrutiny Committees have:

- Questioned the Council Leader about Budget proposals.
decision was called for consideration by the Scrutiny Board. The call-in members listed seven reasons for reconsideration.

- That the current Manor College building did not lend itself to being adapted to provide an accessible or appropriate facility.

- That the decision would restrict development in the area, affecting two major development sites within the town centre, and would not have the ability to enable the buildings to be adapted in the future to address ever changing and evolving developments and needs, leaving Chesterfield behind.

- The area had few or no significant buildings that would warrant this area becoming a conservation area.

- That there were a number of buildings in a poor state of repair and funding would not be available to preserve them, thus creating a potential dead zone.

- There would be a loss of amenity to residents and businesses in the area as a result of the decision.

- There was not a consistent approach to planning in our Town in the proposed conservation area as it excluded Tennyson Avenue and the Northern Gateway site.

- That the decision had been taken in haste and our policy regarding consultation had not been followed. This lack of consultation had curtailed due process and left the Council open to Judicial Review.

The Scrutiny Board considered the matter at a public meeting held 17 August 2011 having received information and evidence, and referred the decision back to Cabinet for reconsideration taking account of the following specific concerns raised by the Board.

The Scrutiny Board concluded:

1. That the consultation period had been rushed and residents had not been given sufficient information to enable them to understand the consequences of their decision.

2. That additional relevant information be given to Cabinet.

3. That the Deputy Leader and Executive Member for Planning had signed off the report before the consultation period had finished.

4. Ward Councillors had not been involved fully in the consultation process.

5. The decision was not included in the Forward Plan and the procedures relating to special urgency had not been followed; briefing sessions should be arranged about the Forward Plan.

Following referral by the Scrutiny Board, Cabinet agreed on 6 September 2011 to reconsider its decision to enable a further view to be taken on the merits of the proposal.
Scrutiny Review Panel on Barrow Hill Heating System

Councillor Jean Innes - Review Panel Chair

A Scrutiny Review Panel was appointed to look into issues associated with the heating system at Barrow Hill following ongoing complaints and issues from the tenants using the system. The Panel’s aims were to:

1. Investigate to ensure tenant’s complaints were being dealt with satisfactorily.

2. Investigate the history and performance of the heating system to establish any alternative options, with associated costs, for providing tenants with heating and hot water.

Conclusions:

The Panel was satisfied that tenants’ complaints had been investigated and handled properly. During its work the Panel was also made aware of new Cabinet proposals to allocate funds for the replacement of the heating system. With this the Panel concluded its work and findings which were provided to Cabinet on 31 January 2012, where it was resolved:

“That the Scrutiny Review Panel be thanked for its comments on the Barrow Hill Heating System and that the relevant Scrutiny Committee be involved and consulted on the proposals for the new system at the appropriate time”.

The Enterprise and Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee will receive the appropriate report for consideration.

Scrutiny Review Panel on Refuse Collection

Councillor Howard Borrell – Review Panel Chair

A Scrutiny Review Panel was appointed to look into issues associated with the introduction of the new blue recycling bin following some public concern and negative correspondence in the local media. The Panel’s aims are to “identify any failings and recommend a way forward”.

The review is currently ongoing. Findings will be reported in next year’s annual report.

Scrutiny Review Panel on Anti Social Behaviour Policy

Councillor Barry Dyke - Review Panel Chair

A Scrutiny Review Panel was appointed to scrutinise and help develop the Council’s Anti Social Behaviour Policy.

The review is currently ongoing. Findings will be reported in next year’s annual report.
Scrutiny Review Panel on Leisure Options

Councillor Stewart Bradford - Review Panel Chair

A Scrutiny Review Panel was appointed to monitor and scrutinise implementation of Cabinet proposals to progress the council’s ambition to improve the effectiveness and efficiency of its Leisure Centres.

The Panel’s work is currently ongoing. Findings will be reported in next year’s annual report.

Inquiry into the Eviction of Tenants regarding Water Rates Payments

In February 2011 the Scrutiny Board commenced an inquiry into the eviction of tenants regarding water rates payments. The Scrutiny Board had concerns that council tenants could be evicted solely for the non-payment of water rates rather than for rent arrears.

The Scrutiny Board recommended existing policies be amended and a new policy introduced to help minimise the risk of eviction of tenants for the non-payment of water rates only. The Board’s recommendations and policy proposals were considered and agreed by Cabinet on 31 January 2012.

The Enterprise and Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee will monitor its implementation.

Statutory Crime and Disorder Scrutiny Committee

Legislation requires that Councils appoint a Crime and Disorder Scrutiny Committee (CDSC) which must meet at least once a year to scrutinise crime and disorder matters.

Such meetings were held on 29 September 2011 and 15 March 2012 to:

- Receive and scrutinise performance progress against the Chesterfield Community Safety Partnership Plan, specifically plans and actions taken to reduce Anti Social Behaviour, Violent Crime (including Domestic Violence) and Acquisitive Crime.

The following scrutiny recommendations were made:

(1) That progress, regarding concerns made relating to sharing information and statistics on alcohol-related health problems particularly hospital admissions, be welcomed, and support be given to a positive campaign identifying a key contact at the Chesterfield Hospital to facilitate communication with the Community Safety Partnership.

(2) That information be obtained on the possibility of recharging parents for the expense of treating their children for the results of under-age drinking together with information on using restorative justice as an alternative.

(3) That support be given to a move towards offering Smartwater to householders more widely for a charge.

(4) That the North Derbyshire Domestic Abuse Action Group’s action plan be welcomed, and that a letter be sent from the Scrutiny Board to the MPs for Chesterfield and North East Derbyshire supporting the need for funding for Domestic Violence and Domestic Abuse support services.

(5) That the report on the review of Community Safety be made to the Scrutiny Committee before submission to Cabinet.
Some updates on the recommendations shown on page 8 were received at the meeting held 15 March 2012.

**Joint Overview and Scrutiny Panel for Chesterfield, North East Derbyshire and Bolsover**

During the 2011/12 municipal year the Joint Overview and Scrutiny Panel (JOSP) met three times.

The Panel reconsidered its terms of reference and joint scrutiny working arrangements following agreement by the Councils to formally adopt the JOSP as a standing panel.

The Panel scrutinised performance and monitored joint services delivered between the three Councils of Chesterfield, Bolsover and North East Derbyshire and received reports from the Head of Internal Audit Consortium, Head of Shared Procurement Unit and Business Manager for the BCN (Building Control) Consultancy, regarding the effective and efficient operation of their services.

The Panel also monitored progress of the implementation of approved scrutiny recommendations arising from its ‘spotlight’ review into the Joint Procurement Service. (See last year’s Annual Scrutiny Report for details).
4 Scrutiny Outcomes and Impact on Service Delivery

The Scrutiny Committees monitor the progress of implementation of scrutiny recommendations approved by decision makers, requesting regular 6 monthly updates on progress. This follow up procedure is essential to ensure that once the recommendations are approved they are put into action - to ensure that the work of Scrutiny impacts on service delivery and that the benefits of scrutiny work are received by people in our community. During 2011/12 the Scrutiny Committees have continued to monitor progress on scrutiny recommendations regarding the following:

- Corporate Services Public Private Partnership Scrutiny Review
- Grit Bins Scrutiny Review
- Health Inequalities Scrutiny Review
- Call-in re: Community Rooms
- Call-in re: Equalities Impact Assessments
- Crime and Disorder Scrutiny Committee

Background detail of these reports and recommendations can be found in the Annual Scrutiny Report 2010/11 and/or in Section 3 of this report. More specific progress made this year is detailed below.

Corporate Services Public Private Partnership (PPP) Proposals, Scrutiny Review Panel

Early 2009 a Scrutiny Review Panel was set up to oversee the procurement of a public private partnership to deliver a number of the council’s corporate services functions.

The Panel’s aims were to:

- Further examine and investigate the existing proposals, as considered achievable and beneficial;
- Monitor and scrutinise further actions and decisions made as proposals move forward and consider whether long term benefits continue to be worthwhile;
- Examine whether the transfer of employees and services to a private sector deliverer would detrimentally affect the quality and standard of service delivery;
- Put forward any alternative options that the panel feels warrants further formal consideration and make appropriate recommendations to Cabinet based on that evidence;
- Raise issues and concerns identified with the executive for consideration and response throughout the review;
- Ensure that individuals affected by the proposals have had the opportunity to raise issues and concerns and feel they have been answered in the interest of transparency and the public interest.

The Panel’s conclusions and two recommendations were considered by Cabinet on 29 June 2010 where it was decided that the report be noted and reference made to the Panel’s conclusions when considering Cabinet proposals on the matter.
Achievements:

- The Scrutiny Review Panel’s work helped ensure a more robust process and final decision to contract Arvato as the council’s preferred partner to deliver its corporate services functions.

- Since entering into the contract regular monitoring and performance reports have been received and considered by both Cabinet and Scrutiny and to date performance against service level agreement and targets has been good. The Overview and Performance Scrutiny Forum will continue to monitor future performance.

- Clarify the legal obligations of the Council relating to the gritting / grit bin provision service.

- For scrutiny recommendations to be included in any adopted borough wide policy on the service.

- Ensure the provision of clear and consistent guidelines and advice for residents including advice on liability for snow clearing.

- Subject to the final policy adopted, propose an equitable and sustainable system of financing grit bins maintenance and grit provision.

- Consider and propose alternative support options for snow clearing in emergencies.

The Panel made eight recommendations in its report. Cabinet considered the report on 17 January 2012 and agreed to note the report and recommendations.

Achievements:

Due to the delay in considering the report some of the Panel’s recommendations had already been implemented before being considered by Cabinet. Other recommendations had been superceded by plans of the new council political leadership and Cabinet agreed they needed further work. Cabinet and Officers are undertaking further work and will be consulting the Community, Customer and Organisational Scrutiny Committee on proposals in due course.

Health Inequalities Scrutiny Review Panel

In February 2010 a Scrutiny Review Panel was appointed to undertake a year long project looking into health inequalities after
successfully winning funding from the Centre for Public Scrutiny (see further information in Section 5). Focussing on the Chesterfield Ward of Rother, the ‘Rother Matters’ scrutiny project which involved many organisations and individuals delivering services in the area particularly NHS organisations, also used the opportunity to pilot the Appreciative Inquiry technique to build on existing assets.

Key project aims were:

- To gather information about behaviour and lifestyles in Rother to enable better targeted and prioritised service provision to improve health and wellbeing that is needs based.

- To enable Rother residents alongside the organisations which support them to influence appropriate service redesign to improve health and wellbeing by:
  - Gathering information about existing strengths or assets in the area, the building blocks for health and wellbeing, alongside information about behaviour and lifestyles; and identifying a shared vision for health and wellbeing.

The Panel’s report and eleven recommendations were considered and approved by Cabinet in March 2011.

Achievements:

- The existing Community Forum Health Sub Group developed its terms of reference to incorporate and deliver the scrutiny recommendations, also resulting in extended membership and representation.

- A calendar detailing the area’s services and projects and improving access to service information, was developed and delivered to Rother’s residents.

- A Voluntary Community Buddies Skills Exchange has been strengthened by bringing together existing skills exchange and support services for the area such as Timebank, Community Health Champions, Learning Champions and Older People Peer Supporters.

- A Voluntary Community Buddies Skills Exchange is being further developed through the ‘Garden Buds’ project which aims to provide volunteer gardeners.

- A presentation on the project, sharing learning about the scrutiny role, a borough council health role, and Appreciative Inquiry technique was made to the Council.

Call-In re: Equalities Impact Assessment for the Council’s Corporate Services Review Proposals

In August 2010 the Scrutiny Board received a request to Call-in the Cabinet decision to enter into a Public / Private Partnership to deliver a number of the council’s corporate services functions.

The Call-in stated “We are concerned that the Equalities Impact Assessment fails to
meet the legal duties in respect of disability, gender and race. No evidence is provided in the Cabinet report of consultation with either stakeholders or affected groups, or of involvement and engagement of individuals and groups on whom the Public Private Partnership will impact. No details are provided about affected employees explaining how the proposals might impact on issues relating to disability, gender and race. We believe the failure to address these issues could open the process to legal challenge”.

The Scrutiny Board considered the evidence and concluded:

1) “That Cabinet not be asked to reconsider its decision of 29 June 2010 concerning the Corporate Services Public Private Partnership.

2) That the importance and the need for robust Equalities Impact Assessment and the need for more awareness training for both members and officers, be highlighted.”

Achievements:
The scrutiny call-in resulted in greater emphasis and importance being placed on the production of Equalities Impact Assessments.

Call-In re: Community Rooms
In December 2010 the Scrutiny Board received a request to Call-in the Cabinet decision regarding the conversion of a number of community rooms to elderly persons’ bungalows. The Scrutiny Board held two public meetings to consider the matter receiving the evidence brought forward and concluded:

1. “That the closure of Monkwood Road community room be suspended to allow a 12-month monitoring period, with improved publicity, to assess actual usage.

2. That users and tenants be consulted about the possible closure of Bonsall Court and its conversion to housing suitable for elderly people.

3. That Cabinet give consideration to keeping open and monitoring usage at Wimborne Crescent community room and closing an alternative community room.

4. A Scrutiny Review Panel be established to assess need and availability of alternative community meeting places, in Brimington, where there were both Regeneration and Housing community rooms, and to consider the possible closure of one or more of these rooms, subject to consultation with users.

5. All community rooms managed by the Regeneration Department are reviewed by a Scrutiny Review Panel to consider their need and use to ensure that they represent good value for money.”

Achievements:
Cabinet agreed to reconsider its decision taking the recommendations of the Scrutiny Board into consideration and, amongst other things, resolved:

“That the closure of Monkwood Road and Wimborne Crescent community rooms be suspended to allow a twelve month monitoring period with improved publicity to assess actual usage.”

The Community, Customers and Organisational Scrutiny Committee monitored implementation receiving a progress report at its meeting on 29 March 2012. Cabinet is to consider a further report on the matter in the near future.
5 Scrutiny Developments during the Year

Evaluation & Review of the Council’s Overview and Scrutiny Function

In last year’s Annual Scrutiny Report we explained that INLOGOV at Birmingham University had been appointed to evaluate and review the operation of Overview and Scrutiny at Chesterfield. In November 2011 INLOGOV concluded its work providing a report with recommendations. The findings and recommendations of the independent review were considered by Council in December 2012 when a new structure of overview and scrutiny committees was adopted together with a new set of procedural rules. The Council has now adopted three statutory Overview and Scrutiny Committees with the following remits and responsibilities:

1. Overview and Performance Scrutiny Forum

The Forum is a co-ordinating committee with responsibility for more corporate matters including the overview and scrutiny of the council budget, the corporate plan, and corporate performance. This committee will also exercise the Call-in function.

2. Community, Customers and Organisational Scrutiny Committee

This committee looks at the following areas: culture; heritage; community development; community engagement and consultation; community safety; tourism; health and well being; and crime and disorder. It relates to external organisations including the health service, voluntary sector and responsible public service authorities in respect of the discharge of the crime and disorder function including:

Councillors

Police constabularies and police authorities

Fire and rescue authorities

Primary Care Trusts

Its work involves looking at how the Council relates to the communities it represents; how policies, services and decisions support thriving inclusive communities, how they are implemented and how performance is evaluated and improved.

3. Enterprise and Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee

This committee looks at the following areas: decent homes; development sustainable communities; economic development; culture and recreation; land and waste management; and care for vulnerable people.

Its work covers public and private housing; regeneration; employment; this Council’s sport and leisure services; and how the Council relates to and supports its business communities. Its work involves looking at how policies, services and decisions support a thriving inclusive local economy, how they are implemented and how performance is evaluated and improved.

Cross Cutting Issues - The cross cutting nature of public service delivery means there will always be some areas that fall within the remits of more than one Scrutiny Committee. In these cases the Overview and Performance Scrutiny Committee and its Co-Chairs will allocate the work to one of the Scrutiny Committees, or alternatively a task and finish Scrutiny Review Panel may be appointed to focus on such a cross cutting issue.

The new scrutiny structure will be reviewed
annually to ensure optimum potential for effective scrutiny. Members and officers will be consulted as part of the review process.

**Scrutiny Guidance and Protocols**

Following completion of the independent review of scrutiny and adoption of the new scrutiny committee and new constitutional procedure rules for scrutiny, scrutiny Chairs and the Scrutiny Officer have agreed the need to introduce guidance on the operation and processes of overview and scrutiny. We intend to produce guidance documents as follows:

- **An Internal Working Protocol** essentially for the Council’s Members and Officers clarifying the day to day scrutiny and executive working relationship.

- **An Internal Working Protocol for Scrutiny Councillors** to help them deliver their overview and scrutiny duties and obligations.

- **A Public Guidance document** which promotes scrutiny externally, explains its role to the public and how the public can be involved.

- **A Partner Protocol** which explains how the Council’s overview and scrutiny function will engage and involve key partners and external organisations.

A draft version of the Internal Working Protocol for the Council’s Members and Officers has now been produced and is currently being consulted upon.

**Scrutiny Link Officers**

Also coming out of the independent review of scrutiny was the suggestion to introduce Scrutiny Link Officers. A role profile for Scrutiny Link Officers has been developed and introduced, incorporating the roles given below to:

- Act as a two-way communication link between scrutiny and departments/services.

- Bring forward issues of scrutiny member interest including proposed departmental work on policies, strategies and plans.

- Provide departmental and service based information to support the work of scrutiny committees and review panels when requested.

- Identify appropriate service based officers and resources to support scrutiny review work as needed.

- Be familiar with the ‘Internal Reference Protocol for Effective Scrutiny’

- Be aware of scheduled Pre Agenda and Scrutiny Committee dates and Scrutiny Committee work programmes and priorities.

- Attend the Scrutiny Chairs’ Pre Agenda meetings as necessary.

- Attend meetings of the Overview and Scrutiny Committees when requested.

- Attend an annual, informal meeting of the Scrutiny Link officers to share and develop best practice.

- Positively promote Overview and Scrutiny.

- Work with the Scrutiny Officer to help support the work of Overview and Scrutiny.
Scrutiny Councillor Development

The Council agrees that the development and growth of individuals to enable them to undertake their roles effectively, is essential.

Following completion of the independent review of scrutiny and adoption of the new scrutiny committee structure, the Overview and Performance Scrutiny Forum agreed the following priority areas for scrutiny member development:

- Questioning Skills

- Budget Scrutiny

Members received Questioning Skills development which was delivered by INLOGOV during March 2012.

National Scrutiny Area Development Status for Chesterfield

In last year’s report we detailed our huge achievement in gaining national Scrutiny Development Area (SDA) status for Health Inequalities 2010, awarded to the Council by the Centre for Public Scrutiny (CfPS). We also provided details of the very successful ‘Rother Matters’ Health Inequalities Scrutiny Project we completed as a result of winning the award (also see Section 4 for project progress). Since completion of the project we have been very involved in sharing the learning from the project far and wide which to date also led to the following further achievements:

- Featuring in two national publications showcasing the project work as best practice, ie, CfPS’s “Peeling the Onion”, and the Local Government Association’s (LGA) “Understanding Local Communities and Health Data”.

- Promotion of our short film about the project work, now on YouTube

- Taking the LGA’s virtual forum ‘hot seat’ on two occasions to answer questions and be part of real-time question and answer discussion sessions.

- Working with CfPS to deliver four high profile learning and development events / conferences in London.

- Taking a place on the CfPS’s national Healthy Accountability Forum (the national body looking at health and wellbeing scrutiny).

- Being invited to two workshops, one run by CfPS’s Healthy Accountability Forum, and the second organised by the Department of Health, to help inform and develop forthcoming health scrutiny regulations and guidance.

- Being invited to help facilitate workshops at the CfPS Annual Scrutiny Conference in London, 2012.

- The winning of training in Holland, on the Appreciative Inquiry technique, by NSH colleagues who were part of the scrutiny project’s planning group.

- Ongoing working with Derbyshire County Council and through the East Midlands Councils Scrutiny Network with CfPS support to help develop more inclusive and pro-active health scrutiny in the new world.
Impact of, and interest in this work, continues with lots of momentum. The Council is very proud of this work and looks forward to being part of ongoing developments in the area of health and wellbeing scrutiny. Any further updates and achievements will be included in next year’s report.

**Overview and Scrutiny Legislation**

**Localism Act 2011**
Last year we reported on the development of the Localism Act. Amongst other things, the Act provides the choice for Local Councils to retain the Executive and Scrutiny political decision making system. At the present time Chesterfield Borough Council has chosen to retain its existing Executive and Scrutiny system and as reported earlier, has recently invested in strengthening and improving its Overview and Scrutiny arrangements.

The Localism Act does extend the breadth of District / Borough Council scrutiny powers to include various other external partners and key organisations.

The CfPS is currently evaluating how the Act’s new power of General Competence replaces (if it does) the former scrutiny powers to ‘ensure the social, environmental and economic wellbeing of its area’.

**Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011**

The Police and Social Justice Act 2011 amongst other things introduces a requirement for police force areas (in our case Derbyshire) to directly elect a Police and Crime Commissioner. The elected Police and Crime Commissioner will be scrutinised and held to account by a required Police and Crime Panel (PCP). All Council’s in a police force area have a right to a place on the PCP. Councils are in the process of deciding who their elected representative for the PCP will be – however legislation does allow for this to be a (non-executive) Scrutiny Member or an Executive Member. It is expected that further guidance will follow in due course and anticipated that existing local government, statutory Crime and Disorder Scrutiny Committees will work with and inform the work of the PCP.

**Health and Social Care Act 2012**

The Health and Social Care Act 2012 amongst other things makes Public Health services the responsibility of Local Government. In our case Public Health service delivery responsibilities will lie with Derbyshire County Council. The Act introduces a required Health and Wellbeing Board as a committee of the (Derbyshire County) Council to undertake a joint strategic health needs assessment and develop a joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy for the area, and encourage integrated working. The Health and Wellbeing Board has a statutory obligation to involve and work with its District /Borough Councils. Councils (with former Social Care responsibilities) can retain their Health Scrutiny function. No Health Scrutiny duties have been placed with District / Borough Councils, although there is a strong expectation for involvement and partnership working given the direct, positive influences on health, wellbeing and social care that District / Borough Council services already provide. In preparation for the ‘new world’ we are working with Derbyshire County Council, the East Midlands Region Scrutiny Network and with CfPS to develop more pro-active and engaged health and wellbeing scrutiny work.

You can find general details of Overview and Scrutiny Committee obligations and powers in our Annual Scrutiny Reports for previous years, and by visiting the CfPS website: www.cfps.org.uk

Further progress and impact on the development and/or changes to the Scrutiny function will be included in next year’s report.
The three new Scrutiny Committees are currently updating their Work Programme items on a bi-monthly basis, in line with their bi-monthly meetings.

As for previous years, a stakeholder consultation took place at the beginning of the year to engage and enable them to inform and influence the work programmes for 2012/13. Scrutiny aims for its work to have both a strategic and community focus, and to involve all stakeholders where possible. Consultation with Councillors, Officers, Public and Partners is normally undertaken to inform contents of the Scrutiny Work Programmes.

Programmes of work would normally include:

- Items agreed by the Scrutiny Committees for consideration including Scrutiny Review Panel work.

- Ongoing priorities such as budget, performance and corporate priority (Corporate Plan) scrutiny.

- Scrutiny of the Council’s Forward Plan of key decisions.

- The monitoring of implementation of approved scrutiny recommendations.

- The monitoring of implementation of corporate and service improvement plans.

- Other unplanned business items that the Committees will decide to deal with as and when they arises.

Current listed Work Programme business includes:

Overview and Performance Scrutiny Forum

- Budget, Corporate Plan and Performance monitoring

- Corporate Services PPP Performance

- Budget Scrutiny Plans

- Corporate Policy on Concessionary Rates

- Tenant Led Self Regulation

- Asset Management Plan

- Refuse Collection (Blue Bin)

- Anti Social Behaviour Policy

Community, Customer and Organisational Scrutiny Committee

- Equality, Diversity and Social Inclusion Strategy and Action Plan

- Customer Services Strategy

- Chesterfield Health Profile

- Policy regarding Grit Bins and Winter Weather

- Voluntary and Community Grants

- Corporate Health and Safety Improvement Plan Monitoring

- Impact of Changes to Youth Services

- Chesterfield Community Forum Review

- Crime and Disorder Committee duties

- Health Inequalities

- Financial Inclusion
Enterprise and Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee

- Markets Hall Refurbishment
- Parking Policy Review
- Housing Repairs Policy
- Allotments Strategy
- Rationalisation of Play Areas
- Street Scene Improvement Plan Monitoring
- Homelessness Prevention Budget
- Chesterfield Sport and Active Recreation Strategy
- Sport and Leisure – Future Options

The Overview and Scrutiny function is a continually evolving and growing role, requiring ongoing learning and development. Much of the developments this year are detailed in the previous section of this report. It is intended that the Council will undertake formal, annual reviews of its overview and scrutiny function to ensure its ongoing evaluation.
7 Scrutiny Committee Membership 2011

Scrutiny Board Councillors:

Vicki Lang – Chair
Denise Hawksworth – Vice Chair
Howard Borrell
Stewart Bradford
Ian Callan
Alexis Diouf
Barry Dyke
Jenny Flood
Bob Gibson
Mark Higginbottom
Jean Innes
Neil Rayner

Efficiency and Best Value Scrutiny Panel Councillors:

Jean Innes – Chair
Trevor Reynolds – Vice Chair
Angela Everitt
Bob Gibson
Vicki Lang
Mark Higginbottom
Andy Slack
Scrutiny Committee Membership
2012/13

Overview and Performance Scrutiny Board Councillors:

Vicki Lang - Co Chair
Jean Innes - Co Chair
Howard Borrell
Stewart Bradford
Keith Brown
Ian Callan
Alexis Diouf
Barry Dyke
Michael Fanshawe
Bob Gibson
Denise Hawksworth
Julie Lowe

Community, Customer and Organisational Scrutiny Committee Councillors

Jean Innes - Chair
Tom Murphy - Vice Chair
Howard Borrell
Alexis Diouf
Michael Fanshawe
Julie Lowe
Neil Rayner
Andy Slack
Enterprise and Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee Councillors

Vicki Lang - Chair

Denise Hawksworth - Vice Chair

Stewart Bradford

Keith Brown

Ian Callan

Barry Dyke

Bob Gibson

Gordon Simmons

For further information contact:

Anita Cunningham
Scrutiny Officer
CHESTERFIELD BOROUGH COUNCIL
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IF NOT ASK US!

- We want everyone to be able to understand us
- We want everyone to be able to read our written material
- We aim to provide what you require to enable you to read, talk and write to us

On request we will provide FREE -
✓ language interpreters, including for sign language
✓ Translations of written materials into other languages
✓ Materials in braille, large print and on tape

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Mobile text phone 07609 10264
Fax 01246 345252

καί αν έχεις δύναμη να μιλάς μας; Αν όχι, ζητήσε!

你可覺得易於與我們接觸？若不的話，請提出要求。

Czy łatwo jest skontaktować się z nami? Jeżeli nie, powiedz nam o tym!

Siamo accessibili nei vostri riguardi? In caso contrario rivolgetevi a noi!